



VIKRAMADITYA

COURAGE AND HONOUR WIN THE DAY

Vol 568





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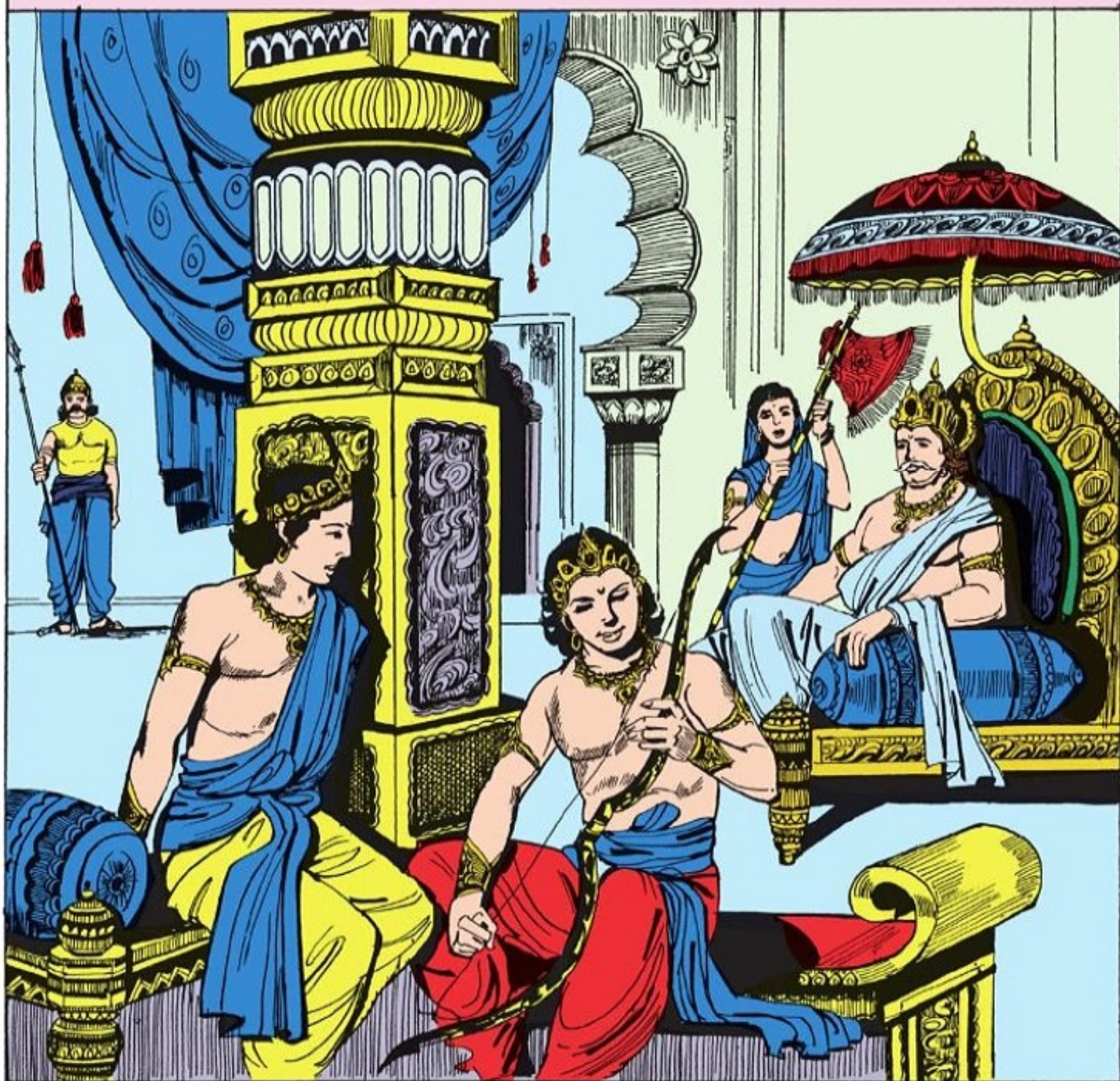
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Vikramaditya



ABOUT 1,600 YEARS AGO, A VAST PART OF INDIA WAS RULED BY A GREAT KING, SAMUDRAGUPTA. PATALIPUTRA WAS ITS CAPITAL. THE KING HAD TWO SONS - RAMAGUPTA AND CHANDRAGUPTA.

THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PLAYMATES, SONS OF THEIR FATHER'S MINISTERS AND OFFICERS. ONE DAY -

PRASEN,
SHALL WE
GO TO THE
RIVER BANK
TO PLAY?

THAT
WILL BE
GREAT
FUN!

THE RIVER
BANK IS
HAUNTED BY
WILD BEASTS.
LET US SEE
WHAT
FATHER
SAYS.



THEY WENT TO THE KING.

MAY WE GO TO
THE RIVER BANK
FOR A WALK?

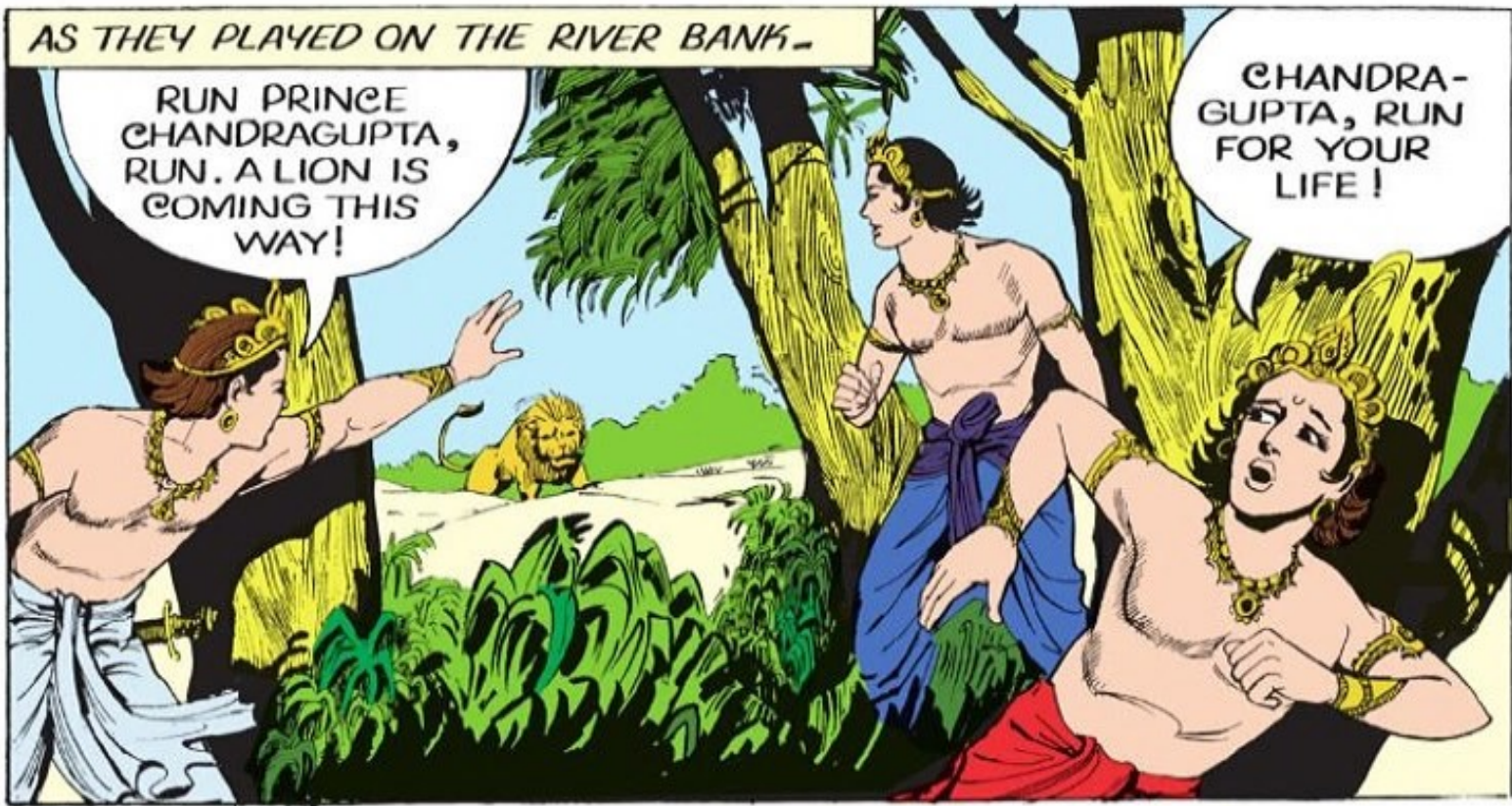
CERTAINLY
MY SONS;
YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO
FEAR.



AS THEY PLAYED ON THE RIVER BANK -

RUN PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA,
RUN. A LION IS
COMING THIS
WAY!

CHANDRA-
GUPTA, RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE!



BUT CHANDRAGUPTA STOOD
HIS GROUND.

LET IT COME.
I'LL FACE IT.



AS THE LION ATTACKED HIM,
CHANDRAGUPTA SIDE-STEPPED AND -



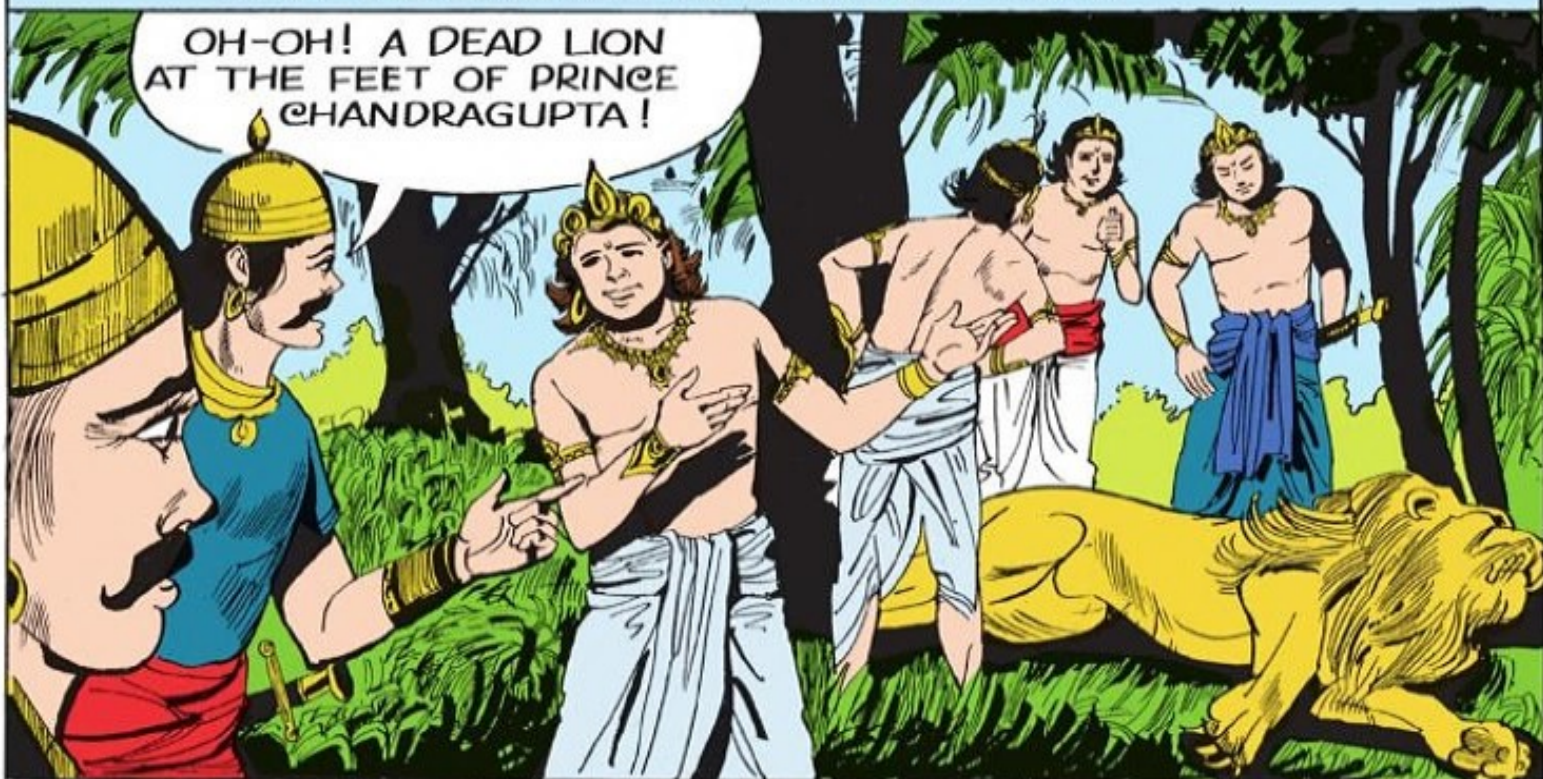
RAMAGUPTA,
HE IS BRAVE,
ISN'T HE?

HE WAS
JUST TRY-
ING TO
SHOW OFF.



AS THE PRINCES DID NOT RETURN IN TIME, SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO LOOK FOR THEM.

OH-OH! A DEAD LION
AT THE FEET OF PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA!



THE SOLDIERS RUSHED BACK AND INFORMED SAMUDRAGUPTA.

THAT'S LIKE MY
SON. I HOPE HE
IS NOT HURT.




AT THAT MOMENT THE PRINCES AND THEIR FRIENDS ARRIVED
FOLLOWED BY A CHEERING CROWD.

I SAW HIM
KILLING
THE LION!

HE IS
FEARLESS
INDEED!








CHANDRAGUPTA
MIGHT...

IT'S TOO SOON.
YOUR FATHER'S
ASHES ARE
STILL WARM.

WHEN A FEW DAYS HAD GONE BY -




YOUR HOLINESS, PLEASE
MAKE THE NECESSARY
ARRANGEMENTS TO
CROWN PRINCE
RAMAGUPTA.

BUT
OUR LATE
MAHARAJ HAD WISHED
PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA
TO SUCCEED HIM.

BUT PRASEN!
THE RIGHT OF
SUCCESSION IS
MY ELDER BROTHER'S.

THE CROWNING CEREMONY
WAS PERFORMED.



MAY YOU
SAFEGUARD THE
TRADITIONS OF
YOUR ANCESTORS
AND THE COUNTRY,
SIRE!

HE WILL SAFEGUARD
NEITHER OF THE TWO.
TAKE MY WORD
FOR IT.

LATER RAMAGUPTA MARRIED DHRUVA DEVI, A PRINCESS OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY.

WELCOME, CHANDRA-GUPTA. THE QUEEN HAS BEEN ENQUIRING ABOUT YOU.

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR HEROIC DEEDS EVEN BEFORE I WAS MARRIED, CHANDRAGUPTA.



THE FOLLOWING DAY -

MADHAVI, THERE IS NO EXAGGERATION IN WHAT THEY SAY OF CHANDRA-GUPTA.

YES, HE DESERVES ALL THEY SAY AND MORE.



PRINCE CHANDRA-GUPTA RENOUNCED THE CROWN FOR YOUR HUSBAND.

IS THAT SO?



ONE DAY -

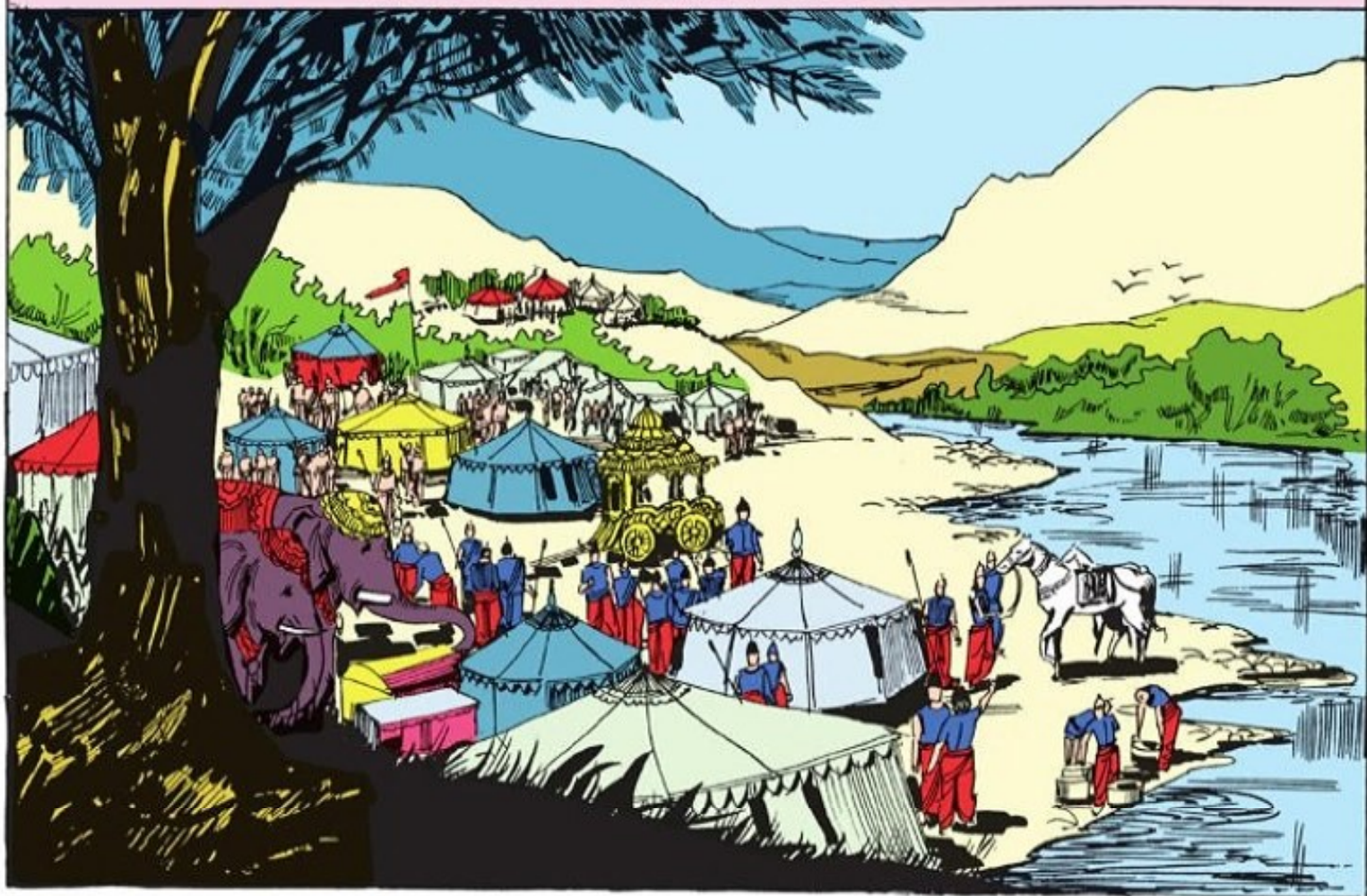
MY LORD, I AM TOLD PRINCE CHANDRAGUPTA GAVE UP THE CROWN FOR YOU!

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD MANY MORE THINGS.

MY QUEEN, NOBODY EVER MAKES SUCH A SACRIFICE FOR ANOTHER.



SOME MONTHS LATER, THE KING WENT ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE KINGDOM. WHEN IT GREW DARK, THEY ALL CAMPED NEAR A RIVER.



NEXT MORNING WHEN THEY STARTED MARCHING AHEAD -



SOON A SOLDIER CAME RUSHING TO THE KING.



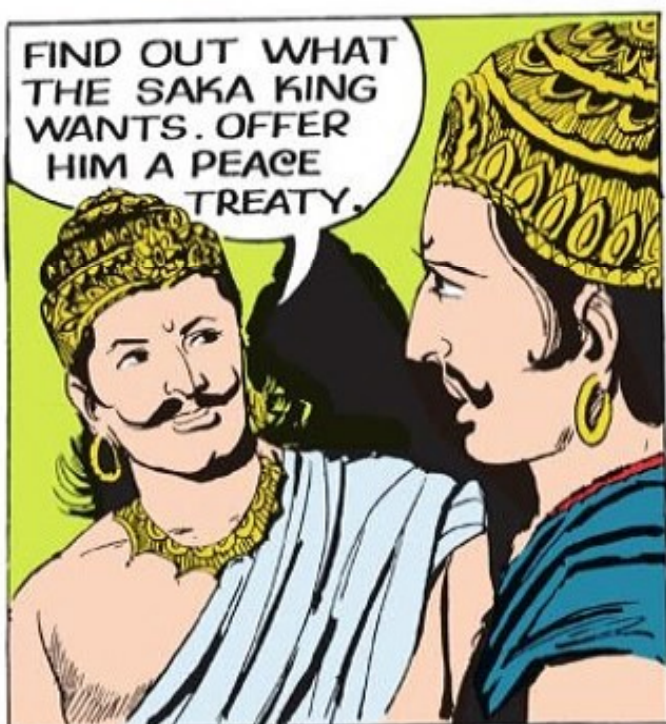
SOME TIME LATER -

I BRING BAD NEWS, O KING! THE PASS THROUGH WHICH WE CAME HAS ALSO BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SAKAS WE ARE TRAPPED!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW? WE WILL BE MASSACRED. FIND SOME WAY OUT, MINISTER.



FIND OUT WHAT THE SAKA KING WANTS. OFFER HIM A PEACE TREATY.



A TREATY? IS THERE NO ALTERNATIVE?

GO AWAY FROM HERE. DON'T MEDDLE IN THE MATTERS OF STATE.



SOON THE KING'S MESSENGER RETURNED.

WHAT DOES THE SAKA KING SAY?

MAHARAJ, I DON'T DARE REPEAT IT!!





HAVE NO FEAR.
DOES HE DEMAND
A VERY HEAVY
PRICE?

HIS DEMAND,
SIR, IS
SHAMEFUL!



I'LL PAY ANY
PRICE FOR
PEACE!

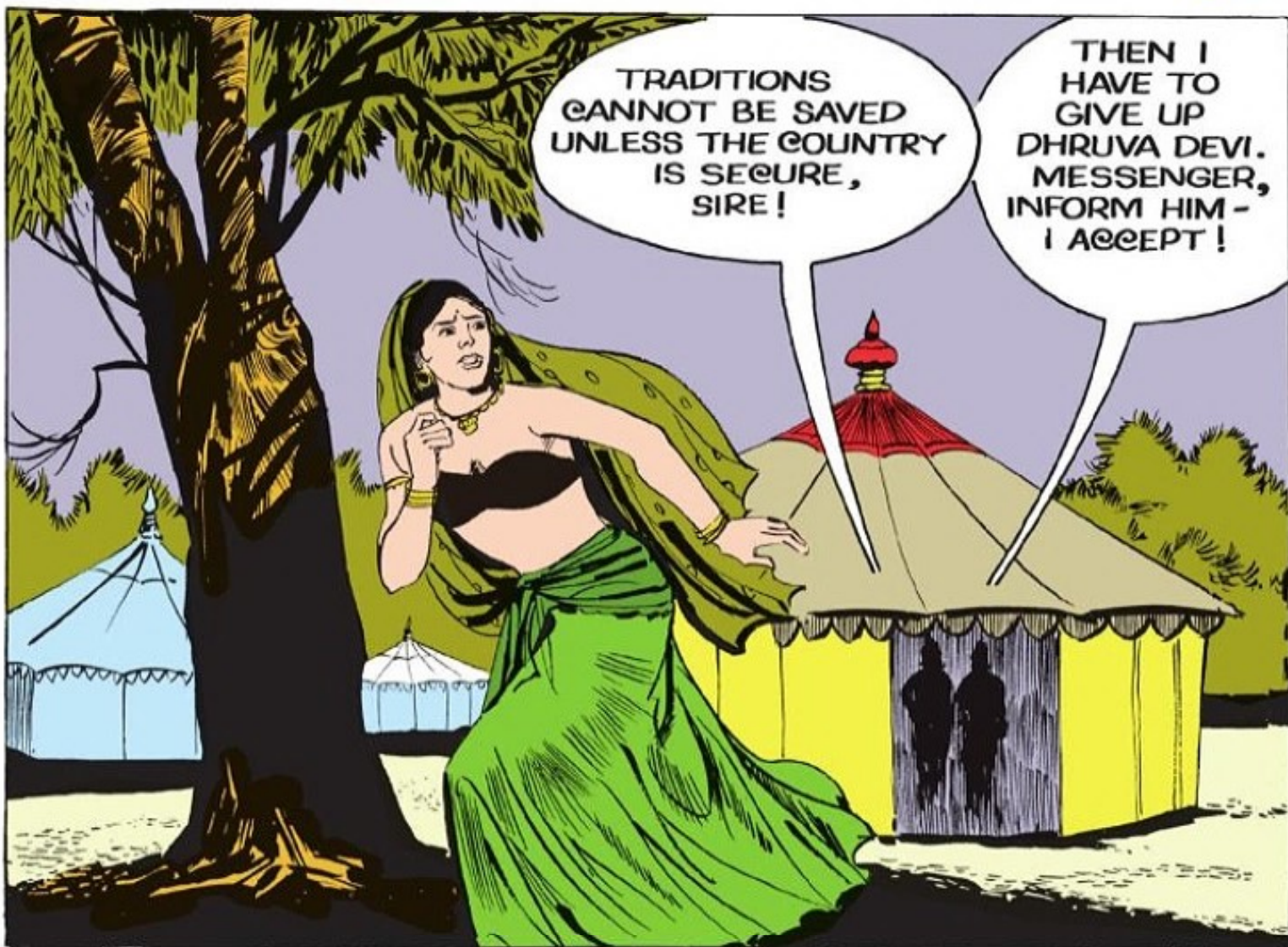
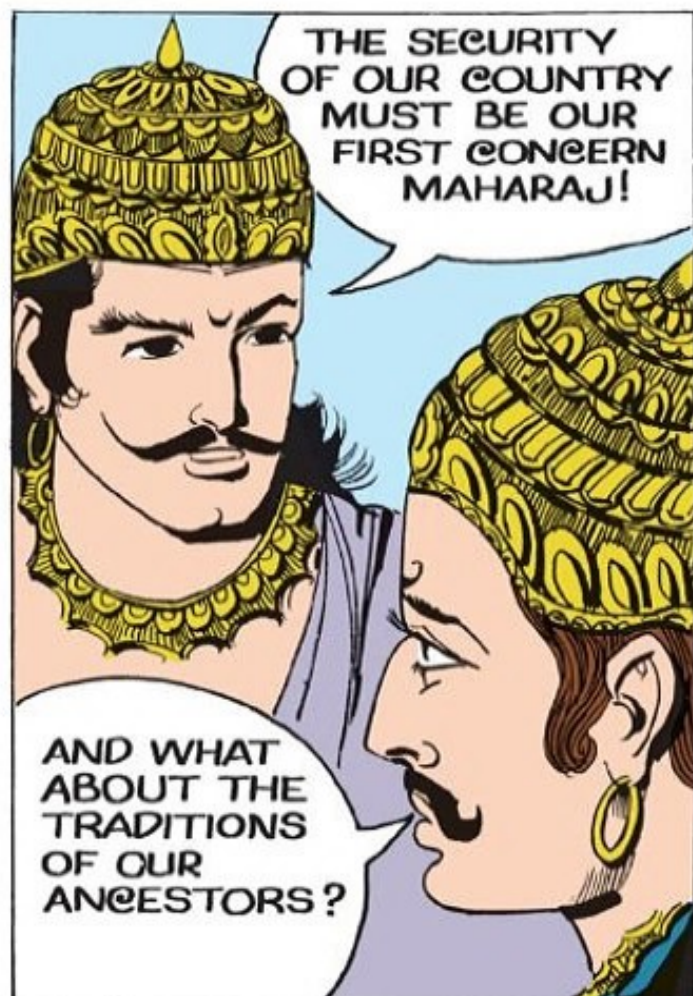
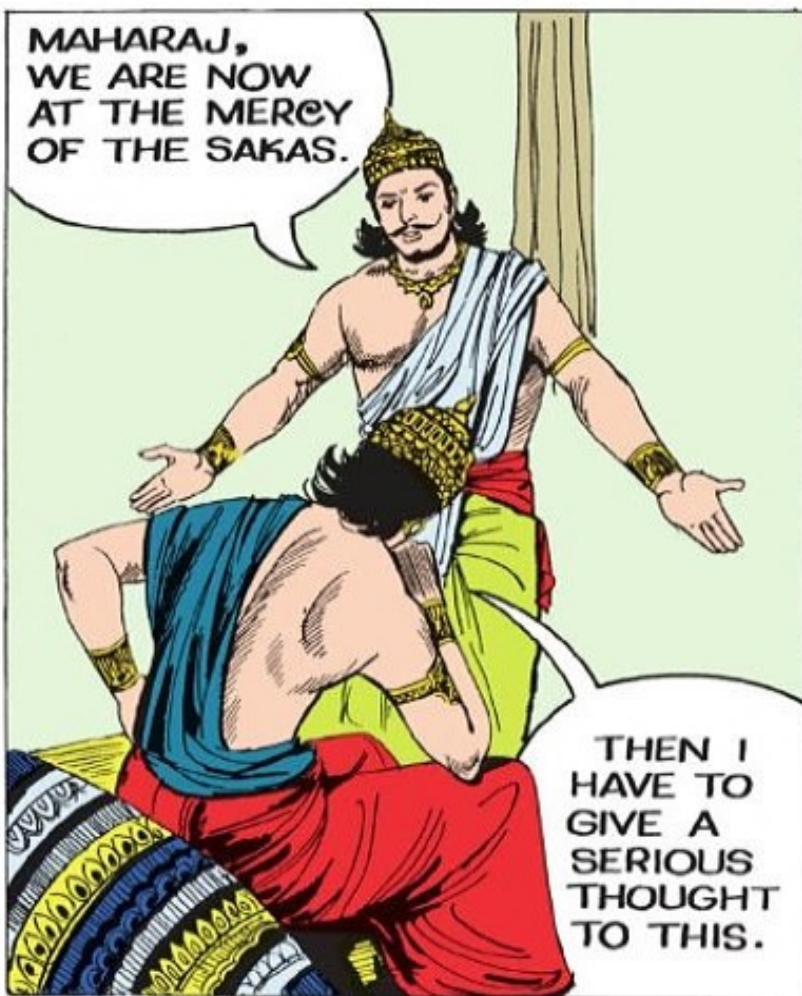
MAHARAJ, HE
SAID MAHARANI
DHURVA DEVI WAS
TO HAVE BEEN
MARRIED TO HIM,
A LONG TIME
AGO!



HE DEMANDS
THE HAND OF
OUR QUEEN?

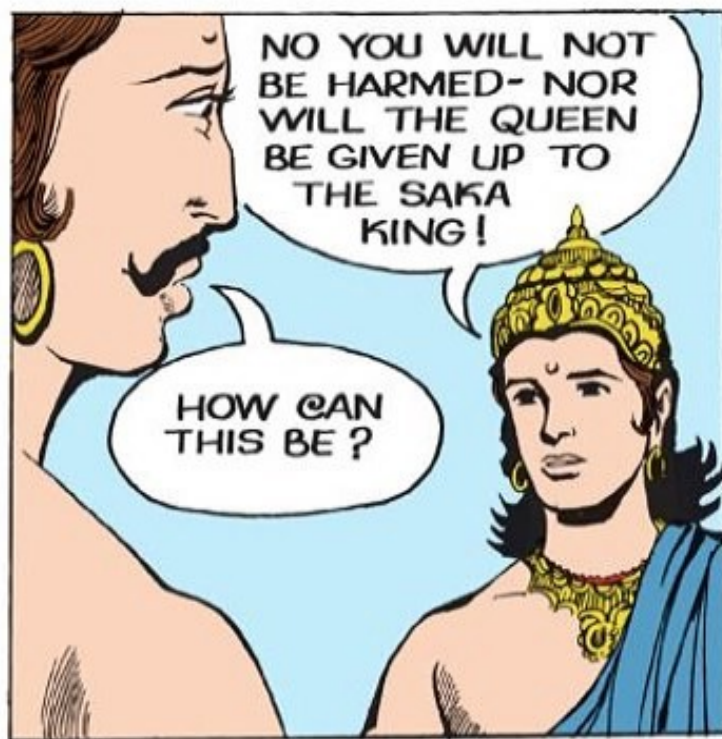
THAT'S
RIGHT!

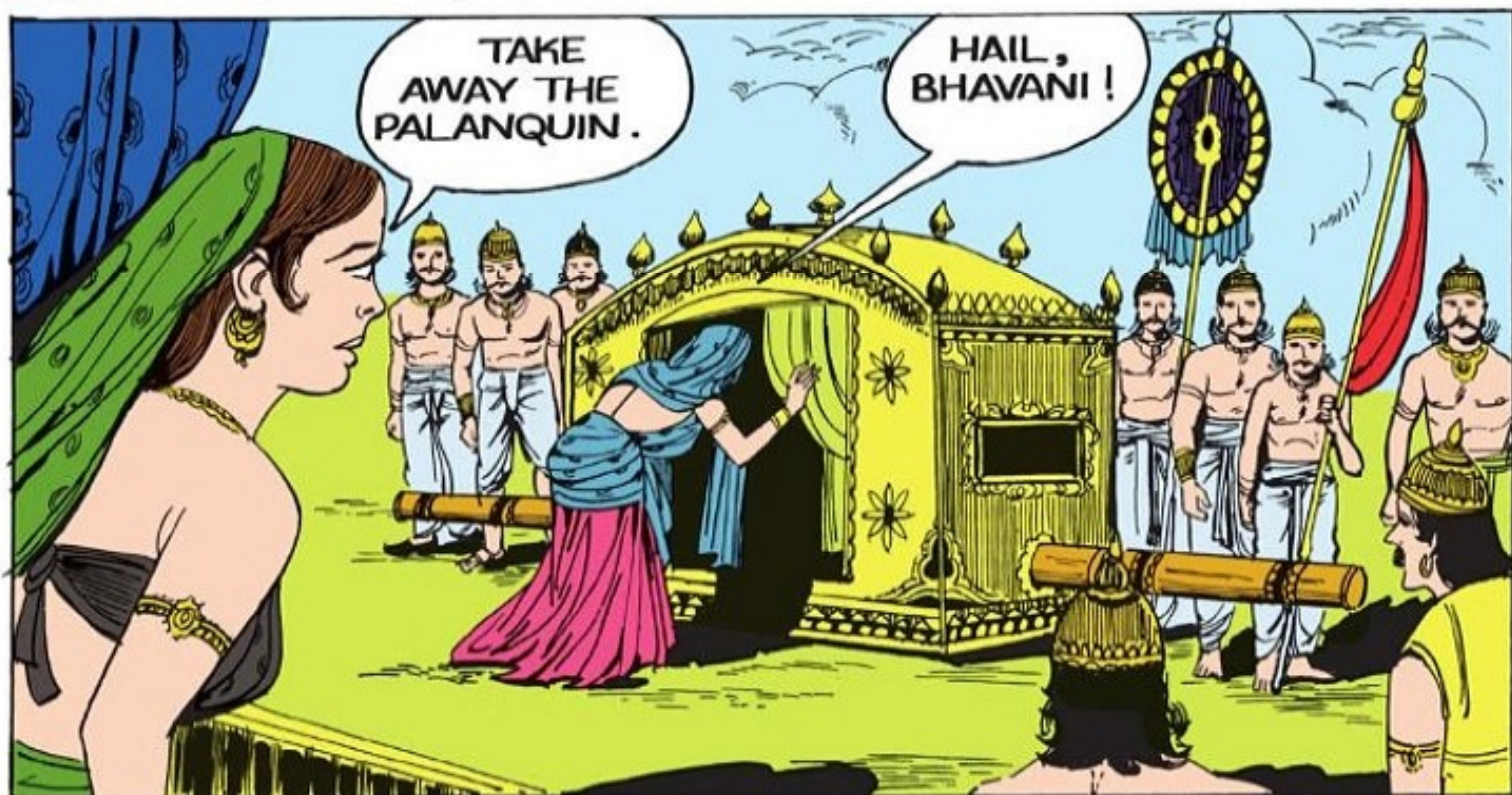
THIS
IS RIDICULOUS.
ISN'T THERE
ANOTHER WAY OUT?

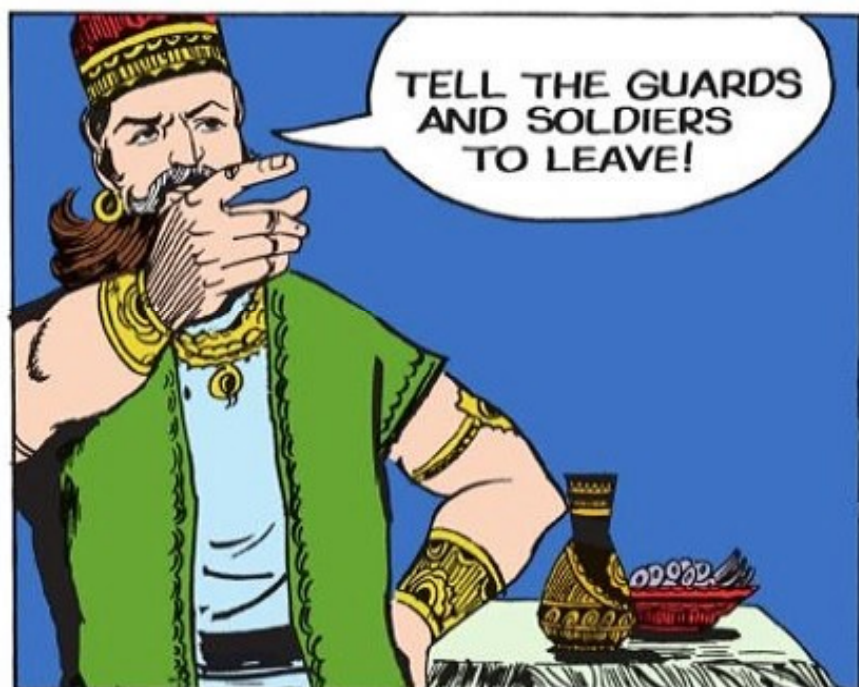














THE SAKA KING FELL WOUNDED. CHANDRAGUPTA'S MEN ENTERED THE CAMP.





IN A SHORT WHILE, THOUSANDS OF SAKA TROOPS WERE PUT TO DEATH.



HUNDREDS OF SAKA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS.

OUR KING, THE GREAT CONQUEROR, IS NO MORE!



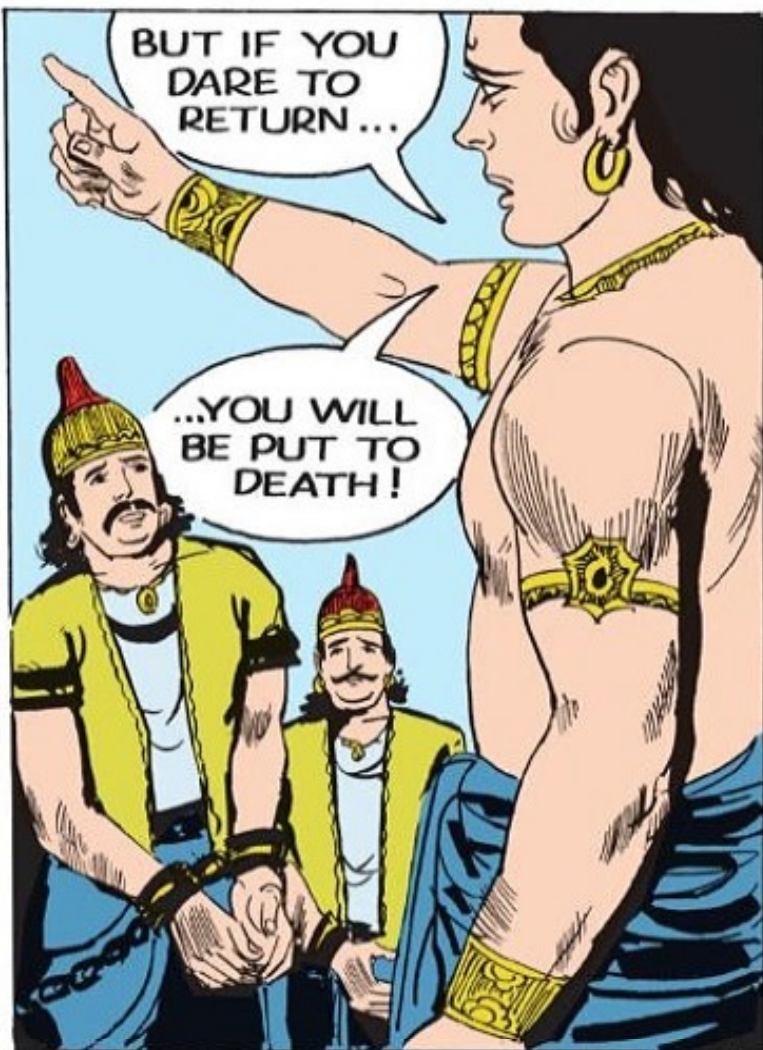
SPARE OUR LIVES - WE BEG OF YOU, COMMANDER.

YOU WILL BE BANISHED FROM THIS COUNTRY!



BUT IF YOU DARE TO RETURN...

...YOU WILL BE PUT TO DEATH!



INFORMED OF THE SAKA DEBACLE, RAMAGUPTA AND DHRUVA DEVI ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU, CHANDRAGUPTA. YOU WILL BE REWARDED WELL.

I AM INDEBTED TO YOU, FOR EVER, PRINCE.



ON THEIR RETURN TO THE CAPITAL -

VICTORY TO CHANDRAGUPTA!

HAIL MAHARANI DHRUVA DEVI!



CHANDRAGUPTA WAS THE CHOSEN HEIR TO THE GUPTA THRONE!

MAHARAJ SAMUDRAGUPTA HAD HIMSELF NOMINATED HIM!

RAMAGUPTA IS A COWARD. HE HAS NO RIGHT TO BE THE KING.





AFTER HIS STRENUOUS EXPERIENCE, CHANDRAGUPTA SLEPT LIKE A BABY.



THAT NIGHT, IN CHANDRAGUPTA'S BED-CHAMBER -





IN THE COURT NEXT DAY -

I HAVE
SAD NEWS
FOR YOU.
MAHARAJ
RAMAGUPTA
IS DEAD.

THE
COWARD
DESERVED
IT!

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE MADE A
DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA'S LIFE!

AT THAT MOMENT A THRONG OF PEOPLE ENTERED THE COURT.

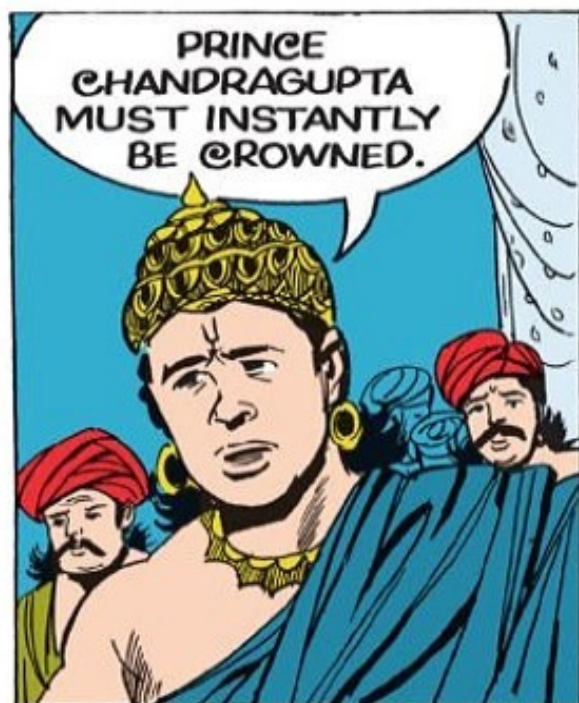
VICTORY TO
CHANDRAGUPTA!

HE CAN SAFEGUARD THE
COUNTRY AND THE
GUPTA TRADITIONS!

YES,
PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA IS THE
RIGHTFUL
HEIR TO THE
GUPTA
THRONE.



THE HONOURED
THRONE OF THE
GUPTAS SHOULD
NOT REMAIN
VACANT FOR
A MOMENT.



PRINCE
CHANDRAGUPTA
MUST INSTANTLY
BE CROWNED.



I HAVE A
SERIOUS
PROPOSAL
TO MAKE
TO YOU,
GENTLEMEN!

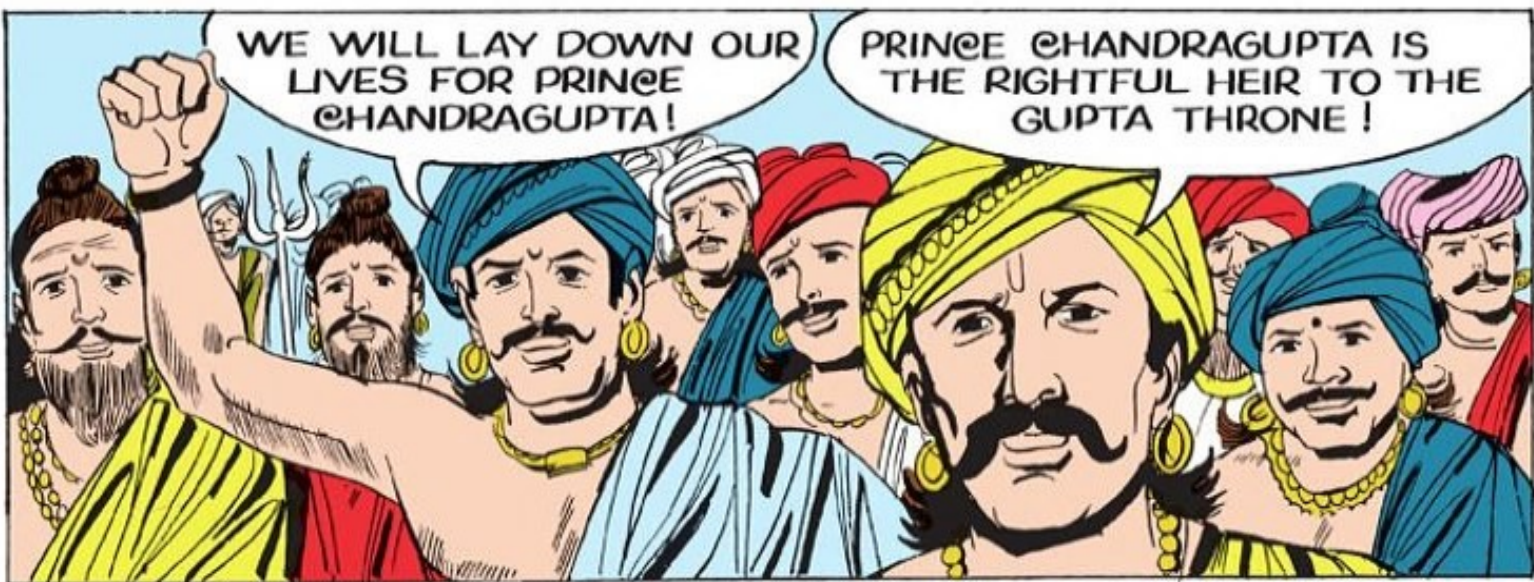
IS HE AGAIN
TRYING TO
PLAY SOME
MISCHIEF?

IT IS
HE WHO SET
PRINCE
RAMAGUPTA
ON THE
THRONE.



PRINCE CHANDRA-
GUPTA SAVED
THE HONOUR
OF BOTH HIS
COUNTRY
AND HIS
ANCESTORS.

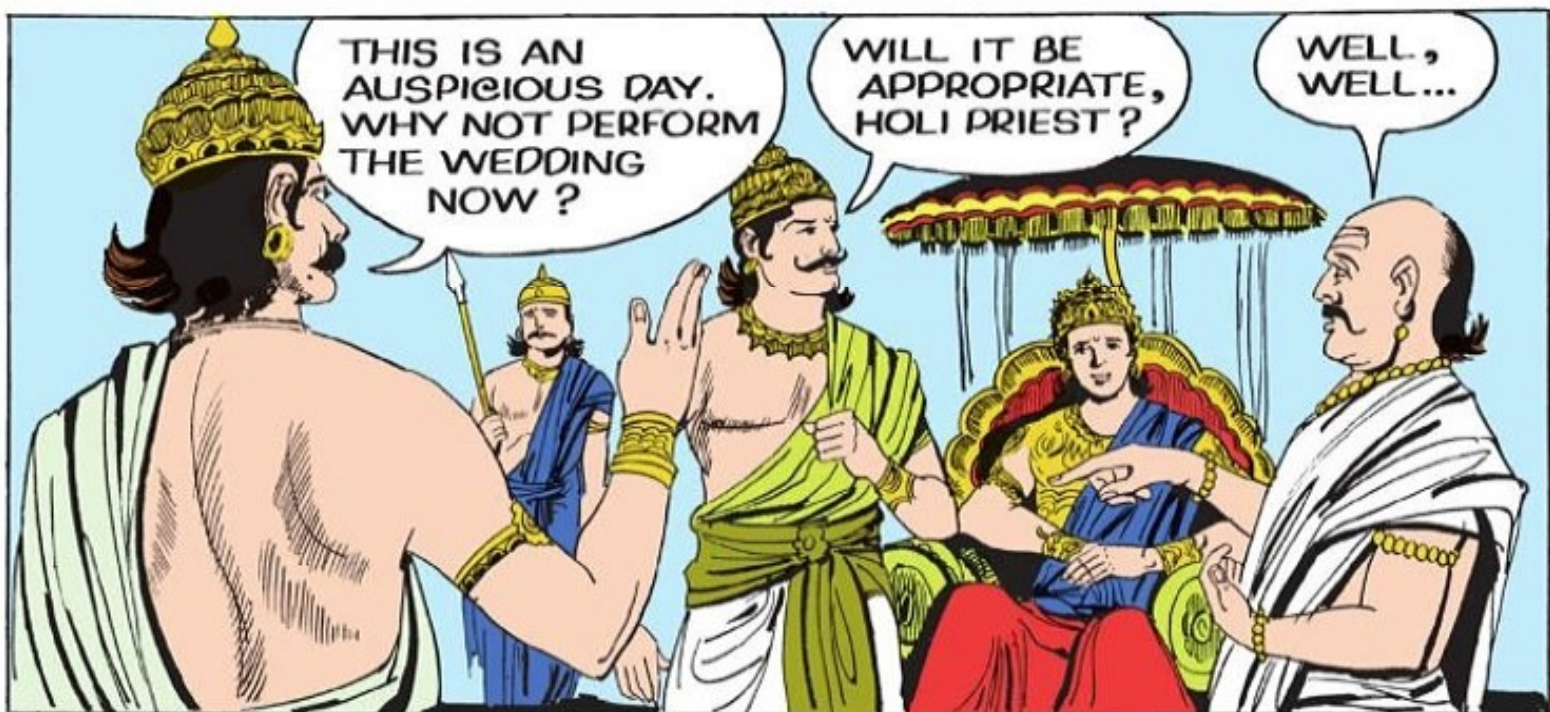
SO HE
REALISED IT
AFTER ALL!



AFTER THE CROWNING CEREMONY _



THE BURDEN OF
DEFENDING THE
COUNTRY IS NOW
YOURS, MAHARAJ
CHANDRA-
GUPTA .



THE WEDDING WAS SOLEMNISED...



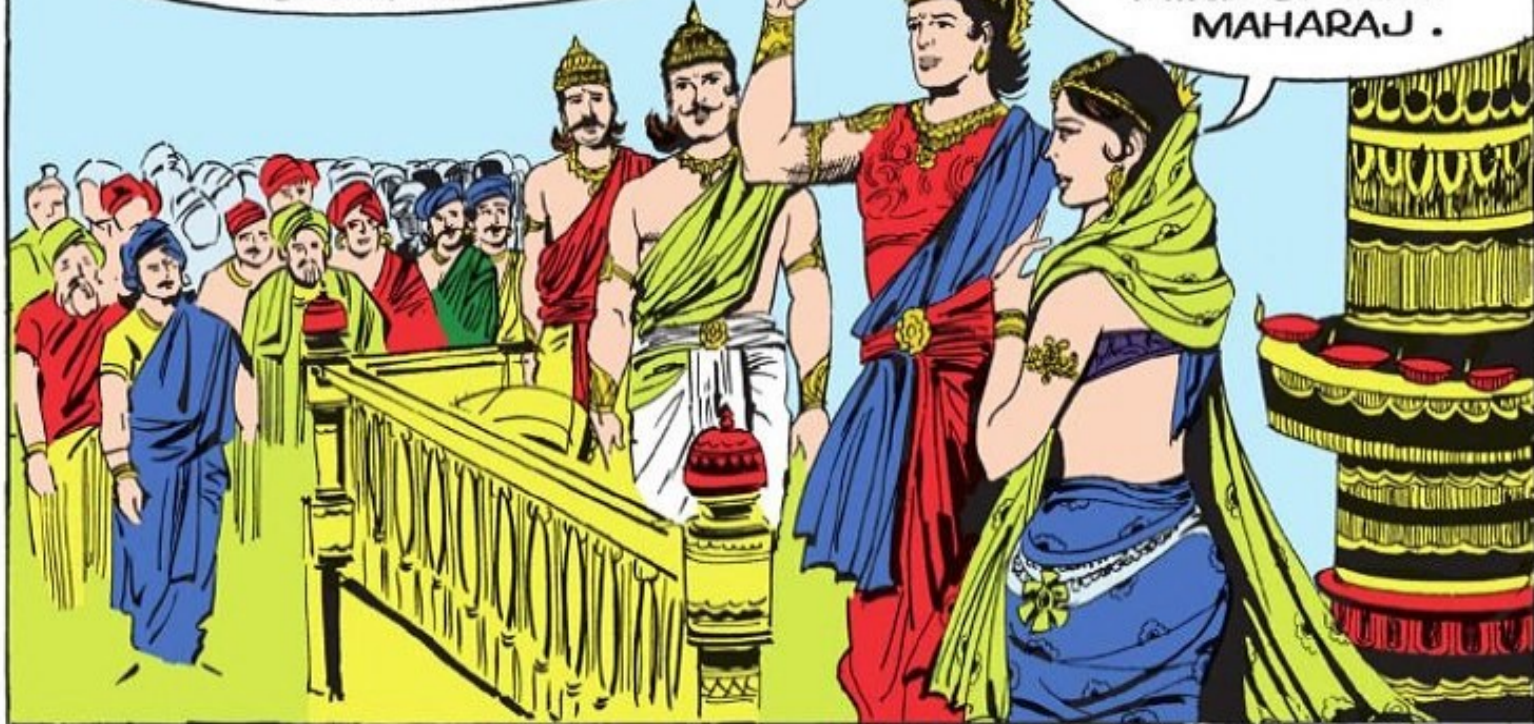
MINISTER, PLEASE
ASK THE PEOPLE TO
STAY AWHILE!

I HAVE TO MAKE
A SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT.



MY COUNTRYMEN, AS YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS, I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE DRIVEN EVERY SINGLE SAKA OUT OF OUR COUNTRY.

IT WILL BE MY ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP THIS PROMISE ALIVE AND FRESH IN THE MIND OF OUR MAHARAJ.



DHRUVA DEVI KEPT HER WORD. ONE DAY, AT THE COURT IN UJJAINI -

YOU ARE A GREAT POET, KALIDASA! I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DRAMA 'SHAKUNTALA' ENACTED AGAIN NEXT FULL-MOON DAY. WOULDN'T YOU, DEVI?

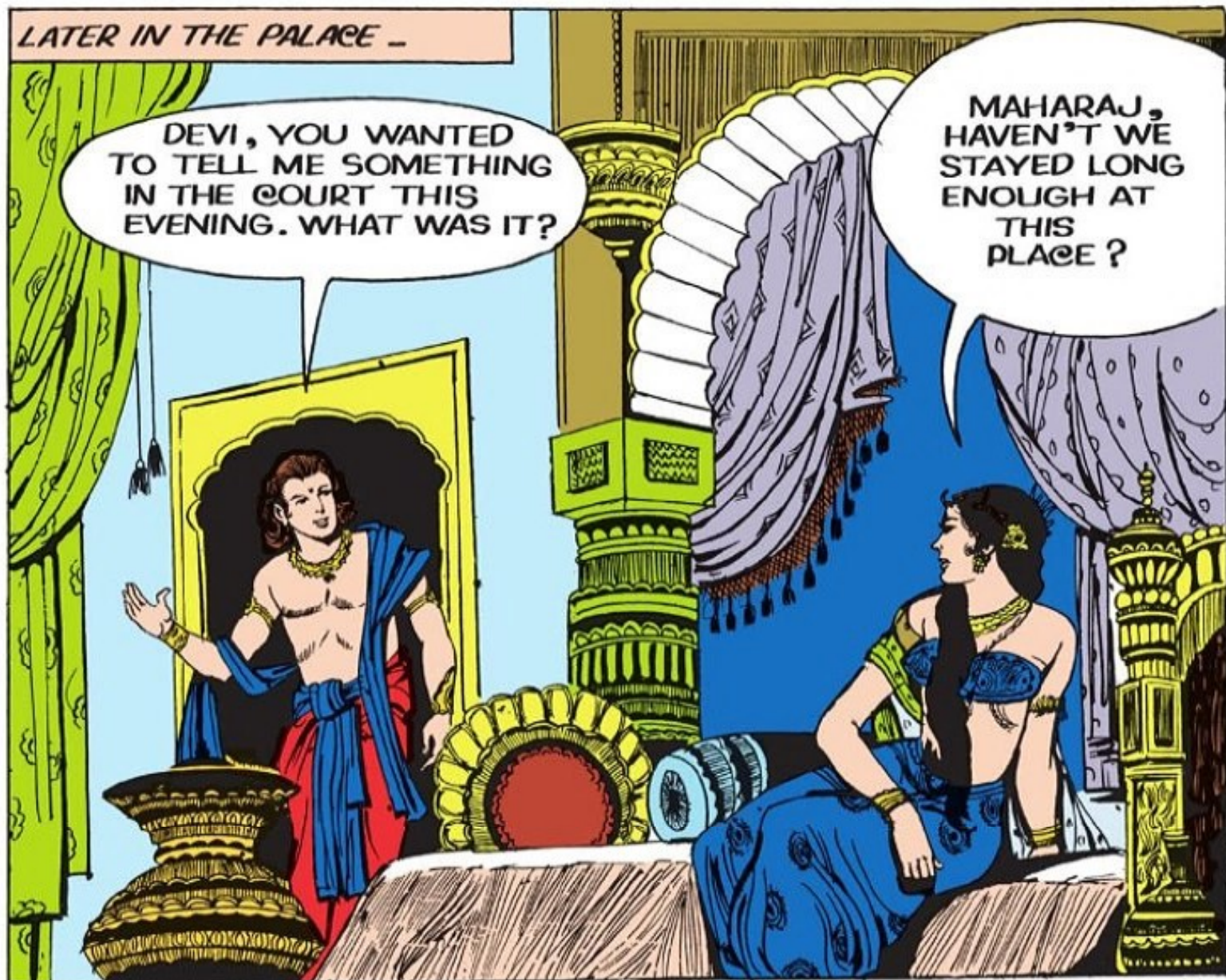
THERE IS GREAT CHARM IN THE POET'S WRITINGS. BUT MAHARAJ...



LATER IN THE PALACE _

DEVI, YOU WANTED TO TELL ME SOMETHING IN THE COURT THIS EVENING. WHAT WAS IT?


MAHARAJ, HAVEN'T WE STAYED LONG ENOUGH AT THIS PLACE?



I LIKE THE PLACE.
I LIKE THE PEOPLE.

THE PEOPLE HERE ADORE YOU BECAUSE YOU FREED THEM FROM SAKA DOMINATION. THEY ALL REFER TO YOU AS VIKRAMADITYA. BUT...





BUT THE SAKAS
STILL RULE IN
GUJARAT. IS THAT
WHAT YOU WANT
TO REMIND ME
ABOUT ?

YES AND NEAR
THE BORDERS OF
THIS COUNTRY
THE KUSHANAS
HARASS OUR
PEOPLE .

*SPURRED BY THE WORDS OF DHRUVA DEVI , CHANDRAGUPTA SOON
LEFT ON A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SAKAS .*



MAY VICTORY BE
WITH YOU !

MONTHS LATER -



MAHARANI,
A LETTER FOR
YOU FROM THE
EMPEROR .

THEN WHAT I HEARD
MUST BE RIGHT. THE
MAHARAJ MUST HAVE
WON THE BATTLE
AGAINST THE SAKAS
OF GUJARAT !

YES, MADHAVI. THE
LAST VESTIGE OF
FOREIGN RULE HAS
BEEN REMOVED
FROM OUR
LAND...

...AND THE
MAHARAJ WILL
BE COMING
BACK SOON.

GREAT
NEWS!

PEOPLE GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THEIR HERO ON HIS RETURN.



LATER CHANDRAGUPTA WENT AS FAR AS BACTRIA, BEYOND THE HINDU
KUSH MOUNTAINS AND DEFEATED THE KUSHANAS TOO.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

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Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
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Bheeshma
Chandrahasta
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
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Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
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Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
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Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
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The Golden Mongoose
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A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
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Tirupati
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Vishwamitra
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Chanakya
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Dayananda
Deshbandhu
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Eknath
Fa Hien
Ghanshyamdas Birla
Guru Arjan
Guru Gobind Singh
Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
Huen Tsang
J.R.D Tata
Jagadis Chandra Bose
Jamsetji Tata
Jawaharlal Nehru
Jayaprakash Narayan
Jim Corbett
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Kabir
Kalidasa
Lal Bahadur Shastri
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Madhvacharya
Mahavira
Marie And Pierre Curie
Megasthenes
Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
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Ramana Maharshi
Ramanuja
Salim Ali
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Soordas
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Kesari The Flying Thief
King Kusha
Manduka

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The Brahmin And
The Goat
The Dullard
The Greedy Mother-
in-law
The Jackal And
The Wardrum
Raman Of Tenali
Raman The Matchless Wit
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Satwant Kaur
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The Miraculous Conch
The Mystery Of
The Missing Gift
The Pandit And The
Milkmaid
The Pig And The Dog
The Pious Cat
The Priceless Gem
The Prince And
The Magician
The Prophecy
The Queen's Necklace
The Rainbow Prince
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Vikramaditya's Throne

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and women of India

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Ajatashatru
Akbar
Amar Singh Rathor
Ashoka
Babur
Bagha Jatin
Bajirao I

Baladitya And
Yashodharma
Balban
Banda Bahadur
Bappa Rawal
Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Bhagat Singh
Bidhi Chand
Bimbisara
Chand Bibi
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Chennamma Of Keladi
Dara Shukho And
Aurangzeb
Durgadas
Ellora Caves
Hakka And Bukka
Hari Singh Nalwa
Harsha
Hemu
Humayun
Jahangir
Jallianwala Bagh
Kalpana Chawla
Kochunni
Krishnadeva Raya
Kunwar Singh
Lachit Barphukan
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Mangal Pande
Noor Jahan
Padmini
Panna And Hadi Rani
Paurava And Alexander
Prithviraj Chauhan
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Rana Kumbha
Rana Pratap
Rana Sanga
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Rani Of Jhansi
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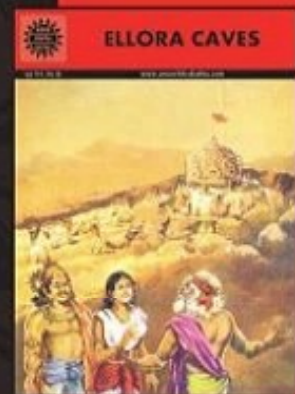
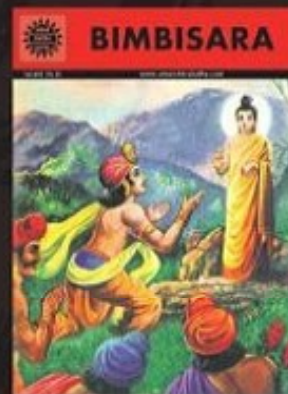
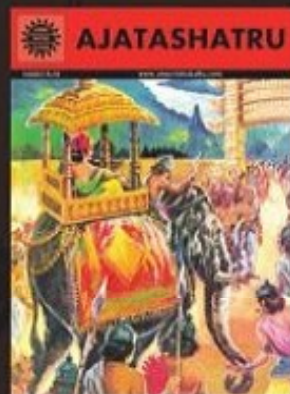


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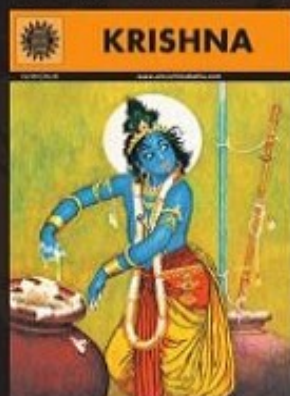
VIKRAMADITYA

Chandragupta Vikramaditya has a special place in history because he proved that the love of power is not all that is needed to create an empire. Also needed are the love of a wise woman and good, old-fashioned honour.

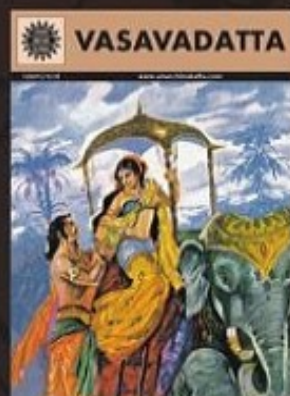
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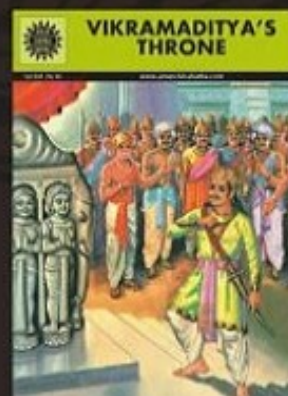
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